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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/930,721	08/15/2001	Max Douglas Oylr	9D-DW-19866	1672

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EXAMINER

WILKENS, JANET MARIE

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3637

DATE MAILED: 02/25/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/930,721

Applicant(s)

OYLER ET AL.

Examiner

Janet M. Wilkens

Art Unit

3637

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) 14-16 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) 1,3-9 and 17-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) 2 and 10-13 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 3.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

Specification

The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: on page 6, lines 18 and 34, "Figure 1" should be Figure 2". (That's where panel 166 is shown) Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 21 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. For claim 21, "said escutcheon" lacks antecedent basis.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 6-9, 17, 18, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Abresch. Abresch an outer door panel (Fig. 7) for a dishwasher comprising: a frame with lateral sides (30,31); an outer metal, bowed surface (34; for bowed portion see Fig. 6 for example) extending from the frame and between the sides; and a recessed/inclined control mounting surface (see Fig. 7, portion with control means

Art Unit: 3637

235) extending from the outer surface between the lateral sides. The door panel also includes a inner door panel (inner door panel shown in Fig. 3 with portions 161) attached thereto.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 3-5, 19 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Abresch in view of Stottmann. As stated above, Abresch teaches the specifications of claims 1, 17 and 20, including a dishwasher door panel with a recessed control mounting surface. For claims 3-5, 19 and 21, Abresch fails to teach that the surface contains a cutout with an escutcheon received therein. Stottmann teaches a dishwasher (Fig. 1) having a surface which contains a cutout (Fig. 2) with a plastic escutcheon (40) received therein. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the door panel of Abresch by using an alternate, more modern control means therein, i.e. using the control panel with the multiple features provided by Stottmann therein instead of the simple control means presently taught, to provide a more marketable, modern dishwasher. Note: the mounting surface of Abresch would need to be modified as necessary to accommodate the control means of Stottmann, this including forming a recess therein to receive panels 34,40, adding an opening therein,

Art Unit: 3637

like opening 22 of Stottmann, and incorporating the various controls 25,20, etc of Stottmann in the surface/door of Abresch.

Allowable Subject Matter

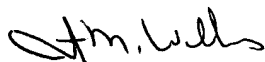
Claims 2 and 10-13 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 14-¹⁶~~17~~ are allowed. (For claim 14, the allowable subject matter being the dishwasher door assembly including an inner door panel and an outer door panel; the outer door panel having an outer surface which surrounds a recessed control surface formed therein.)

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Janet M. Wilkens whose telephone number is (703) 308-2204. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-2168.

Wilkens
February 18, 2003


JANET M. WILKENS
PRIMARY EXAMINER
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